

## **Tamarisk Long Term Visitor Area Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)**

Every year, thousands of visitors come to enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities offered at BLM's Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs), where visitors may camp for as long as seven months. Tamarisk LTVA is comprised of 10 acres of previously disturbed land surrounded by Tamarisk trees. Tamarisk LTVA is located approximately 30 miles from El Centro CA. off of highway 98.

Winter visitors, who wish to stay in an LTVA, must purchase a long term permit or a short visit permit. The long term permit is valid for the entire season or any part of the season which runs from September 15 to April 15. The short visit permit is valid for 14 consecutive days with the option to purchase an unlimited quantity of additional permits. Both permits are valid in any of the designated LTVAs.

### **RMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS**

**Objective Statement:** Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area. To manage the area as a Long Term Visitor Area to accommodate visitors who wish to camp for an extended period of time (usually the entire winter season - Sept 15 through Apr 15).

**Activities:** long term camping (both individual and group), hiking, photography, wildlife watching, rock hounding.

**Experiences:** Enjoying the company of others, especially those with similar interests; Increased independence/autonomy; spending the winter in a comfortable climate; enjoying the scenic quality of the natural landscapes

**Benefits:** Relief of stress from living in an urban environment; strengthen ties with fellow campers who return year after year. These campers tend to be older and retired individuals that travel in motor homes and 5<sup>th</sup> wheel campers. They organize social gatherings throughout the use season such as pot lucks and BBQ's. They also help the local economies by purchasing supplies, having vehicles fixed, and purchasing health services. Through the efforts of the camp host providing informational brochures and the informational kiosk; campers increase their awareness of the natural landscapes.

### **RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS**

**Physical Components :** The qualities of this landscape have the characteristics fitting the Front Country Classification. The Tamarisk LTVA is remote with the nearest town approximately 30 miles away. The LTVA is unimproved, retains much of naturalness, and has no visitor center. A camp host is present between September 15 and April 15 to assist visitors, issue permits, and provide information and basic maintenance.

**Social Components:** Contacts are made by the camp host and BLM staff. The group size for Tamarisk LTVA is general 2 people with the occasional single camper. Evidence of this is provided by monthly reports from the camp host and visual confirmation from BLM staff.

**Operational Components:** Access to Tamarisk LTVA is via paved access off of Hwy 98. There are no developed camp sites or rest rooms. During the use season (September 15 through April 15) permits are required and can be obtained on site or at a BLM field office. Other Special Recreation Permits (SRP) may be considered such as waste pumping for RV's. From April 16 through September 14 the area is managed as limited use land.

### **MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES**

The BLM's LTVA program was established in 1983 to meet the long-term camping needs of winter visitors and to provide special management and control measures for the protection of natural and cultural resources. The LTVAs have been designated through the BLM's land use planning process as special areas where recreational use should be permitted so the BLM can address resource protection and public health and safety concerns. The designation of LTVAs ensures that suitable locations are available for long-term use year after year, and that areas with sensitive natural and cultural resources are not used for extended periods of time.

The BLM manages seven LTVAs. The Yuma Field Office manages the La Posa and Imperial Dam LTVAs, the El Centro Field Office manages the Tamarisk, Pilot Knob, and Hot Spring LTVAs, and the Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office manages the Mule Mountain and Midland LTVAs. The LTVAs are located in La Paz County, Arizona and Imperial and Riverside counties, California. The underlying authority for the designation of LTVAs is contained in 43 CFR 1601.0-3, and defined in 43 CFR 1601.0-5 (k) (1), (2), and (4).

**Recreation and Visitor Services Program:** LTVA season runs from September 15 through April 15. See permit fees/conditions of use below. Camping is not allowed within one mile of LTVA boundary. Visitors must purchase a long-term permit (valid September 15 through April 15) or a short-term permit (fourteen or fewer consecutive days). Visitors to the LTVA outside of the regular season (April 16 through September 15) do not have to purchase a permit or pay a camping fee. Reference the Long-Term Visitor Area Supplemental Rules (BLM/AZ/GI-10/004) for additional rules/regulations concerning uses within the LTVA. Thirty five supplemental rules have been established for the Long Term Visitor Areas and are in addition to rules of conduct set forth in 43 CFR subparts 8365. From April 16 through September 14 the Tamarisk LTVA is managed as a limited use area.

#### **Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:**

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	2039	30	0	0	0

**Other Programs:** Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the local TTMP. Renewable energy development is not an allowable use in SRMAs due to the incompatibility with the values of the SRMA. Two exceptions to this management action are: 1) geothermal development is an allowable use if a geothermal-only DFA overlays the SRMA designation and complies with a "no surface

occupancy” restriction; and, 2) in the Preferred Alternatives if a DRECP variance land designation overlays the SRMA, renewable energy may be allowed on a case-by-case basis if the proposed project is found to be compatible with the specific SRMA values. No commercial renewable energy development (solar and wind) within 250 feet of the LTVA boundary.

Management is based upon a controlled balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. This provides for a wide variety of present and future uses such as recreation, energy, and utility development. Management is also designed to conserve desert resources and to mitigate damage to those resources which permitted uses may cause.

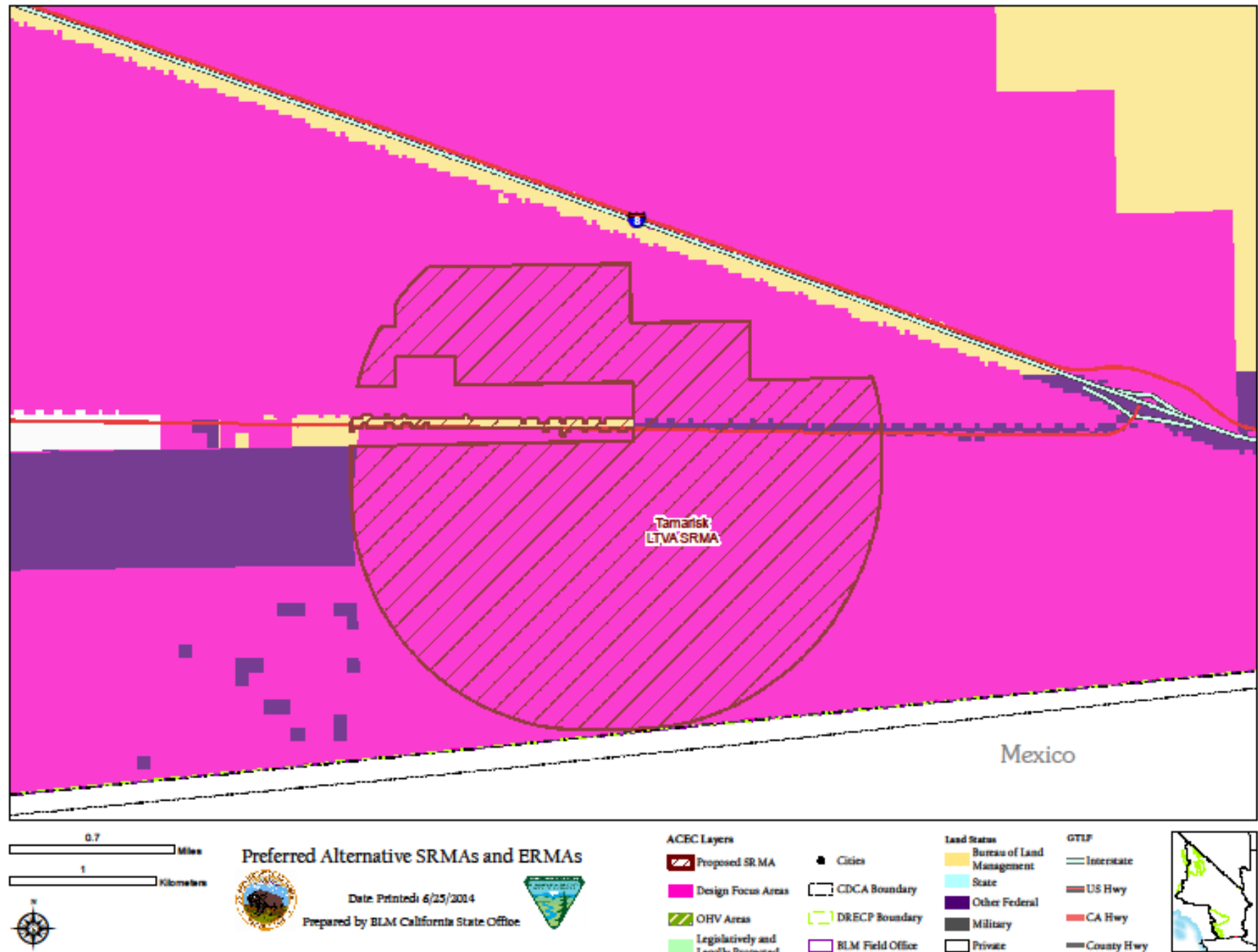
**Implementation Decisions:** Continue use of a camp host(s) for seasonal use, maintenance of signs and kiosk, and continue cooperative work with the Yuma field office to provide permits and brochures.

Continue existing management of the LTVA as per the 1983 management plan and CDCA plan, 1980 as amended, until the appropriate activity level plan is developed to identify and designate current and future recreational opportunities, appropriate facilities to provide for and manage the proposed uses, parameters for streamlined Special Recreation Permitting of recreation events, staffing and funding needs, parameters for facility and road/trail maintenance, partnerships, possible recreation fee considerations, and an implementation schedule.

**Mitigation:**

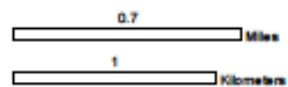
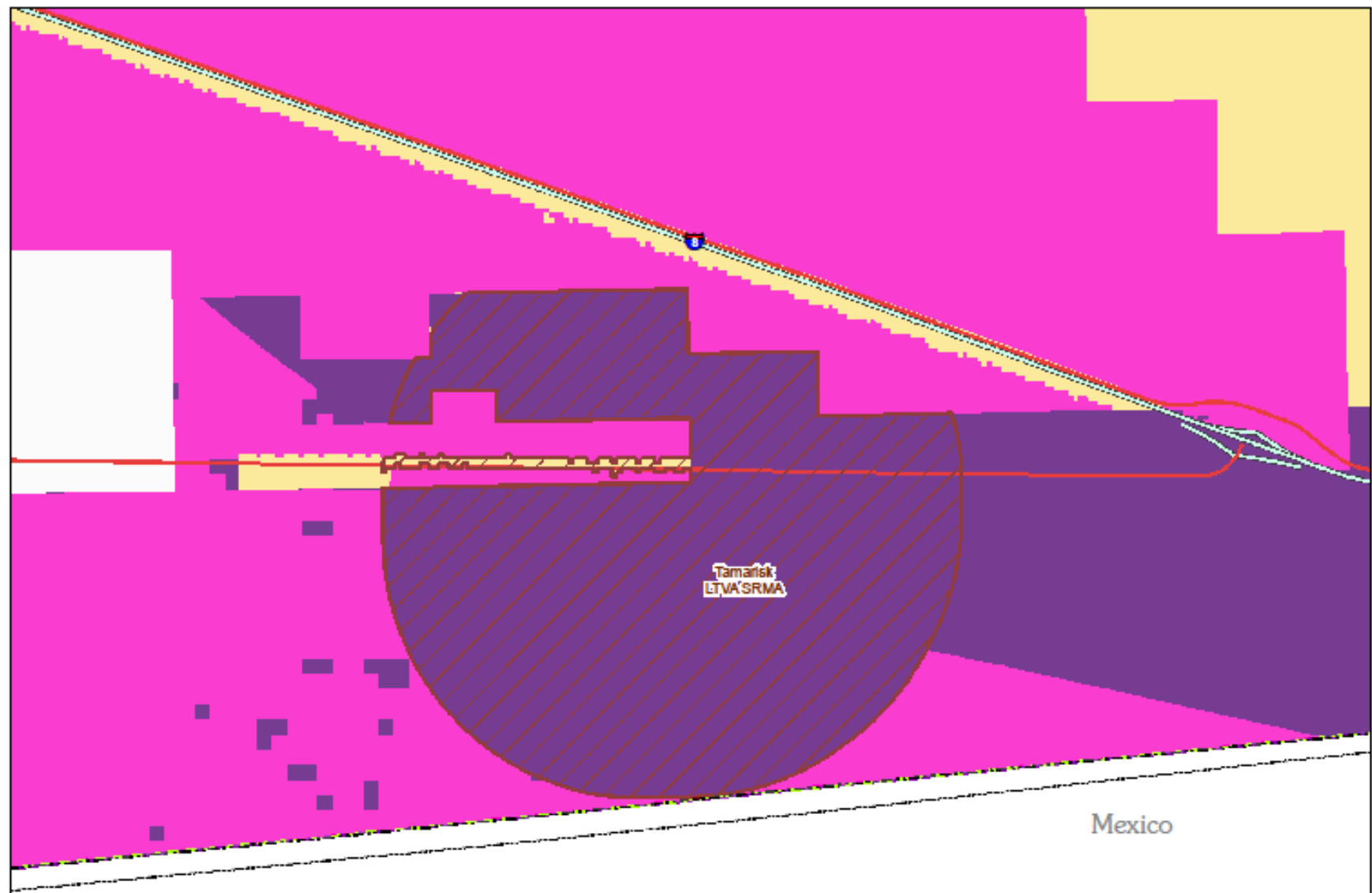
1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Tamarisk LTVA SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic

# Tamarisk LTVA SRMA



The information and maps shown on this system should be used for planning purposes only. It should not be the sole source for determining map boundary locations.

# Tamarisk LTVA SRMA



## Alternative 1 SRMAs

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legally and Legally Protected

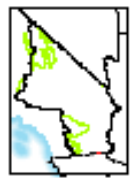
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLP

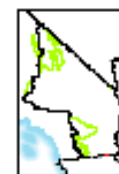
- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



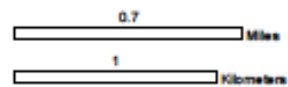
The map displays the Tamarisk LTVA SRMA. A red line indicates the proposed rail alignment, which runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. A blue line represents an existing or alternative alignment, which is more horizontal. A yellow rectangular area is located in the upper right corner. A small blue and red shield marker is positioned on the red alignment. A legend box in the center contains the text 'Tamarisk LTVA SRMA'. The word 'Mexico' is written in the bottom right corner. The map is bordered by a black line on the left and bottom.



— County Hwy



# Tamarisk LTVA SRMA



## Alternative 3 SRMAs

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

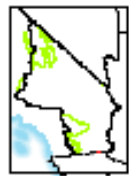
- Proposed SR MA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

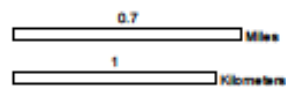
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Tamarisk LTVA SRMA



## Alternative 4 SRMAs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

